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TITLE: AUTOMATIC EXPOSURE CONTROL METHOD

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ABSTRACT:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the luminance level around a maximum frequency position of a luminance histogram by generating a histogram of luminance, calculating proper <u>luminance correction values</u> with respect to the luminance levels of respective <u>divided</u> <u>areas</u>, and making luminance level corrections as well as gamma corrections, in response to the <u>luminance correction values</u>.

SOLUTION: A histogram of luminance is generated, its contents are divided into several areas, and a maximum frequency in each <u>divided area</u> is extracted. Based on this the proper <u>luminance correction values</u> for the luminance levels of the respective areas are so calculated as to weight the luminance level of the highest frequency area, and the <u>luminance correction values</u> are used to perform the luminance level corrections as well as gamma corrections. For example, an image-pickup device allows an exposure control part 23 for controlling a diaphragm 13/electronic shutter by using integrated luminance information each time the video of the screen is inputted from a CCD 14 and furthermore to weight the luminance level based on the luminance histogram information.

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